

PATENT
Docket No. 015916-302

Applicant: Swanson

Serial No.: 10/727,149

Filing Date: December 2, 2003

Title: Surgical Methods And
Apparatus For Maintaining Contact
Between Tissue And Electrophysiology
Elements And Confirming Whether A
Therapeutic Lesion Has Been Formed

Group Art Unit: 3739

Examiner: Vrettakos

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop Amendment

RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

DATED JUNE 30, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 30, 2006, in which the examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-4, 7-15, 18-28, 30, 31 and 34-37, drawn to a suction and stimulation apparatus, and
 - II. Claims 38-42 and 46, drawn to a method of stimulating and monitoring;
- applicant provisionally elects invention I without traverse for prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected invention(s).

In addition to the Restriction Requirement, the June 30, 2006 Office Action included an enquiry concerning the claimed "connector." The Examiner's attention is directed to Figures 8-15 and to the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 20-31. Applicant also respectfully submits that there is nothing even remotely ambiguous about the phrase "a

connector ... configured to secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device to the main body adjacent to the suction region.”

Early and favorable consideration of the elected invention are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

July 11, 2006
Date

/Craig A. Slavin/
Craig A. Slavin
Reg. No. 35,362
Attorney for Applicant

Henricks, Slavin & Holmes LLP
840 Apollo Street, Suite 200
El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 563-1458
(310) 563-1460 (Facsimile)